

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A print job management apparatus that stores a plurality of print jobs sent from at least one print data generating apparatus into
5 a buffer and causes a printer to adequately carry out printing operations corresponding to the plurality of print jobs, said print jobs including at least one interactive print job that needs mutual communication established between said print data generating apparatus and said printer, said print job management apparatus
10 comprising:

a job form decision unit configured to determine whether or not each print job of interest among the plurality of print jobs is said interactive print job;

an interactive print job input unit that, when the print job of
15 interest is the interactive print job, stacks only predetermined data being set intrinsically to the interactive print job in a specific form without representing all drawing details of the print job; and

an interactive print job execution unit configured to establish mutual communication between said print data generating apparatus
20 and said printer and carry out printing at a specific timing determined by stacking condition of said predetermined data.

2. A print job management apparatus in accordance with claim 1, wherein said print data generating apparatus is connected with
25 said printer via a network.

3. A print job management apparatus in accordance with claim 1, wherein the predetermined data set intrinsically in said interactive print job input unit is job information data, which includes at least
30 information specifying that the print job of interest is the interactive

print job and information specifying a print data generating apparatus that has transmitted the print job of interest.

4. A print job management apparatus in accordance with claim
5 1, wherein said print job input unit outputs a specific interruption
signal to a print data generating apparatus, which is transmitting the
print job of interest, to discontinue the transmission of the print job
when it is determined that the print job of interest is the interactive
print job.

10 5. A print job management apparatus in accordance with claim
1, wherein said interactive print job execution unit carries out
printing not via said buffer.

15 6. A print job management apparatus in accordance with claim
1, said print job management apparatus being incorporated in said
printer.

20 7. A print job management apparatus in accordance with claim
2, wherein said job form decision unit carries out the determination,
based on a communication protocol specified when the print job of
interest is transmitted as packet data via a network.

25 8. A print job management apparatus in accordance with claim
7, wherein said job form decision unit determines that the print job of
interest is the interactive print job when the communication protocol
specified is AppleTalk.

30 9. A print job management apparatus in accordance with claim
1, wherein the interactive print job is data that specifies a target

image to be printed in a page description language, which can be interpreted and executed by said printer.

10. A print job management apparatus in accordance with
5 claim 1, wherein the interactive print job is data including a predetermined header, and said job form decision unit carries out the determination based on the predetermined header.

11. A method of managing print jobs in a system that stores a
10 plurality of print jobs sent from at least one print data generating apparatus into a buffer and causes a printer to adequately carry out printing operations corresponding to the plurality of print jobs, said print jobs including at least one interactive print job on the premise that mutual communication is established between said print data
15 generating apparatus and said printer, said method comprising the steps of:

(a) determining whether or not each print job of interest among the plurality of print jobs is said interactive print job;

(b) when the print job of interest is the interactive print job,
20 stacking only predetermined data being set intrinsically to the interactive print job in a specific form without representing all drawing details of the print job; and

(c) establishing mutual communication between said print data generating apparatus and said printer and carrying out printing at a
25 specific timing determined by stacking condition of the predetermined data.

12. A recording medium in which a specific program is recorded in a computer readable manner, said specific program making a
30 plurality of print jobs sent from at least one print data generating

apparatus stored into a buffer and causing a printer to adequately carry out printing operations corresponding to the plurality of print jobs, said print jobs including at least one interactive print job on the premise that mutual communication is established between said print
5 data generating apparatus and said printer, said specific program attaining the functions of:

determining whether or not each print job of interest among the plurality of print jobs is said interactive print job;

when the print job of interest is the interactive print job,
10 stacking only predetermined data being set intrinsically to the interactive print job in a specific form without representing all drawing details of the print job; and

establishing mutual communication between said print data generating apparatus and said printer and carrying out printing at a
15 specific timing determined by stacking condition of the predetermined data.